

Happ, Stafford C.

1933

[Dept. of Geology,
Columbia University]

June 17th

American Numismatic Society
Broadway & 156th St.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sirs,

A request has recently come to me, from a former associate now located in Asiatic Turkey, for information concerning the value of Byzantine ~~coins~~, and Armenian coins. I understand that the object is to attempt the financing of a scientific expedition by sale of collections, but have no more definite information concerning the "coins", except that some are "of Basil's time."

Can you give me any information concerning the market value, or scientific importance, of such coins? Or refer me to likely sources of such information? I have no acquaintance with such matters, and will greatly appreciate any assistance you may be able to give.

Very sincerely

Stafford Happ

Dept of Geology
Columbia University
New York City.

June 20, 1933.

Mr. Stafford Hays
Department of Geology
Columbia University
New York City.

Dear Sir:

You have asked a question rather hard to answer concretely. Byzantine coins are for the most part common, especially in copper. The bulk of the gold sells for very little over gold value. Now and then certain types or those of certain emperors may be worth up to twenty or thirty dollars but they must be in excellent shape and free from holes. For the most part coins found in excavations are too poor in condition to be worth much but one cannot make any conclusions unless he knows his subject thoroughly. As for Armenian coins, there is little demand for these and they are not rare, except in gold. The silver and the copper ones are found in large quantities. The scientific importance may or may not amount to much. On a "dig" they carefully record depth, place, etc. where all coins are found as they are in many cases an additional check-up of the period of that exact locality; which is about the best answer I can give you.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator